

REMARKS

Claims 1-21, 24-34, 41-52, 54-61, 64, 68, 70-73, and 77-86 were previously pending. Claims 1, 12, 18, 41, 64, 68, 73, 77, and 78 have been amended. Claims 1-21, 24-34, 41-52, 54-61, 64, 68, 70-73, and 77-86 remain pending. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

I. Telephone Interview with Examiner

Applicant appreciates the time and courtesy that the Examiner has extended to Applicant in discussing the present application on February 22, 2005.

II. Amendments to the Specification

Paragraph 7 of the specification has been amended to change "end wells" to --end walls-- for the purposes of form and clarity. Applicant asserts that no new matter has been introduced to the patent application by way of this Amendment.

III. Claim Amendments

Claims 1 and 78 have been amended to recite that the latch mechanism is disposed outside the conduit. None of the cited prior art of record teaches or suggests all the limitations of claims 1 and 78 as presently amended. Formal allowance of claims 1 and 78 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 12 and 77 have been amended for the purposes of proper dependency.

Claims 18, 41, 64, 68, 73, and 78 have been amended to change "end wells" to --end walls--. Applicant asserts that no new matter has been entered into the application by way of these amendments.

IV. Conclusion

Applicant therefore respectfully asserts that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

No fees are believed to be due for the filing of this communication. If any fees are deemed due for this or any other communication, Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge said fees due for this or any other communication to deposit account No. 17-0055. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below if such would advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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